

2009 All-Atheist Weekend in San Francisco! (June 27th & 28th)

It's happening again! Yes, it's an All-Atheist Weekend this month in San Francisco. The fun and festivities get kicked off on Saturday June 27 with our annual **Summer Solstice Picnic**, followed on Sunday June 28th with the first-ever **Atheist Film Festival!** Read on for all the details of this exciting big weekend, and see you all there!

Summer Solstice Picnic: Saturday, June 27, 2009

Every June, we skip our monthly program meeting and celebrate the **Summer Solstice** outside!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 27, and join us for our annual Summer Solstice Picnic! We have once again secured a very nice space at **Pine Lake Park**. Pine Lake Park is located in the southwest quadrant of San Francisco, just north of Sloat Boulevard between 19th Avenue and 34th Avenue. The park is a beautiful eucalyptus-lined meadow next to Stern Grove, site of the famous outdoor summer concerts.

We'll get started about **11 AM** and stay until about 4 PM. Please bring a **potluck dish to share** and **\$5 per person** to cover reservation and food/drink costs. **Grilled burgers and hot dogs** with all the fixin's will be provided, as well as **water, soft drinks, beer and wine**.



We still need volunteers to help with the **grilling** as well as ideas or participants for **entertainment**. Please [email us](#) if you can help!

Make your plans to celebrate the longest day of the year with your fellow Atheists on June 27. Dress in layers just in case fog rolls in. You may want to bring something extra for the grill, Frisbee, football, ball and glove, blanket, Scrabble, and even your dog (a popular dog run is between the parking lot and the picnic site).

Getting There

Car: Parking is easy at the park's 100-car parking lot. Turn north on Vale Avenue to enter the park. Park then walk the trail west to the picnic area. [Click here for a Google map](#) with interactive driving directions.

Public Transportation: The 28 or the 23 lines of MUNI will get you to the park. Walk north on Vale Avenue to enter the park. At the parking lot, walk the trail west to the picnic area. [Click here for a Google map](#). [Click here for a MUNI system map \(PDF\)](#) or [plan your trip at 511.org](#).



Questions? [Email us](#).

Our monthly program meetings resume July 25 at Schroeder's Restaurant.

Hooray for Hollywood! World's first Atheist Film Festival: Sunday, June 28, 2009



Drumroll, please! San Francisco Atheists is proud to present the world premiere gala event of 2009 - the first ever anywhere, first annual **Atheist Film Festival** coming up

Sunday, June 28th, at the historic [Roxie Theater](#) in San Francisco. And best of all, admission is FREE! (donations will be gratefully and eagerly accepted.) The Festival highlights are a lineup of brilliant feature and short films in two theaters, as well as special guest stars including film directors, Michael Newdow, cast members of Evolution- The Musical! and more.

San Francisco Atheists are also sponsoring the 2pm matinee feature, Audience of One, an amazing true story set here in San Francisco. All donations collected at this screening benefit SF Atheists, so you'll want to be sure to make this showing! Here's a brief rundown of the schedule. See the Atheist Film Festival website for more details, movie info, theater directions, etc. It's online at www.atheistfilmfestival.org or "Atheist Film Festival" on Facebook.

BIG THEATER (240 seats)

12:15 -- **Pledge of Allegiance Blues** - featuring Michael Newdow's fight to remove "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance

2pm -- **Audience Of One** - True story: God tells a SF pastor to film a \$50 million sci-fi epic; pathos and hilarity ensue.

4pm -- **Root Of All Evil?** - Richard Dawkins takes on Religion

6pm -- **Deliver Us From Evil** – A searing indictment of the Catholic pedophile priest scandal

8pm -- **Letting Go Of God** - Julia Sweeney's funny, heartfelt and wonderfully moving story of her long break-up with God

10:20pm -- **Evolution: The Musical** - Kooky, zany battle between creationism and Evolution packed with shamefully catchy tunes

LITTLE THEATER (49 seats)

(Note: Both shorts programs are approximately 1 hour long and will be repeated during their time slot)

12:15pm - 4:15 pm -- **Shorts Program 1: Fun For Heretics** Classic comedy, outrageous songs and brilliant rants from here, Australia, the U.K., and the ends of the known universe itself. Features George Carlin, Monty Python, David Cross, Bob Odenkirk, Woody Allen, Roy Zimmerman, Marcus Brigstocke, Edward Current, and many more.

4:30pm - 6:00pm -- God's Cartoonist – Satan! Sex! Hippies! Homos! Demons! Drugs! Rock Music! The Occult, Evolution, witch spells, The Illuminati, Catholic assassins and more! It's the world of those freaky little Chick Tracts comic books.

6:15pm - 10:15pm -- **Shorts Program 2: Imagine No Religion** A blend of the comic (Ricky Gervais, Mr. Show, Satan) and the powerful. Highlights include the late Theo Van Gogh &

Ayaan Hirsi Ali's "Submission," the film that led to Van Gogh's murder by a Muslim extremist, and Lisa Seidenberg's moving 9/11 memorial, "In the Name of God."

Questions? [Let us know!](#) The Atheist Film Festival website is <http://atheistfilmfestival.org> and the Facebook page is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Atheist-Film-Festival/79082467458>. See you there!

East Bay Atheists Meeting



This month, East Bay Atheists watches a video of Andy Thomson's talk, '*Why We Believe in Gods*,' given at the American Atheists 2009 convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Thomson works with the Richard Dawkins' Foundation. Dawkins provided tremendous insight into the validity of, and indeed the need for, Atheism. But one can still ponder just why humans are so inclined toward religion. For many theists, this inclination seems to be one of the primary reasons they believe. God must have instilled this religious sense in our consciousness, just as he gave us morality, they argue.

Of course an argument from tradition or intuition is an obvious logical fallacy, but without such arguments, the case for theism simply does not exist.

Modern evolutionary biology has explained this religious inclination in ways that make total sense, but leave one with an understanding that theism is on an intellectual par with the fear of invisible evil creatures in the darkness. Thomson documents the many propensities of human consciousness that are at the root of religion, and then he explains their background in evolutionary theory.

This is a masterful talk, and watching it as a group, followed by a discussion, will help all of us expand our understanding of our species' tendency to be religious. Please join us..

Meeting is **Sunday, June 21**, 1:30 - 3:30 PM in the Berkeley Main Library, 3rd Floor Meeting Room. 2090 Kittredge Street, One Block From Downtown Berkeley BART.

BART Access: From the downtown Berkeley BART Station, walk 1.5 blocks south on Shattuck Avenue, then turn right on Kittredge. The library is a half block down the street on the left.

Parking: The city parking lot at Allston & Harold Way, a short block from the library, is \$5 for the entire day on Sunday. If you don't mind walking, take University to MLK, turn right and then instead of proceeding left on Allston to the parking lot, turn right. In several blocks you will see parking on the side streets.

Information: Larry Hicok, Coordinator: 510-222-7580 Ski Grabowski, Treasurer: 510-652-8350

Atheists Marching in Concord Independence Day Parade

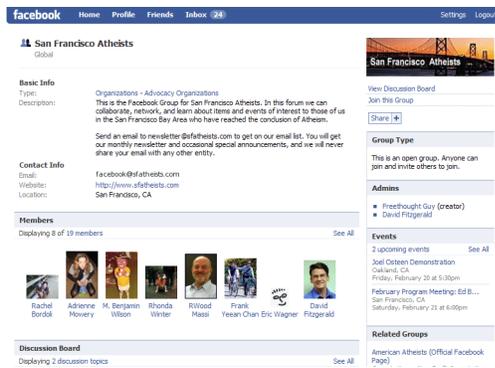


The [Atheists & Freethinkers of Contra Costa County](#) have once again scored a victory in Atheism's march towards public acceptance and respectability. The City of Concord's annual Fourth of July Parade will again feature an ATHEIST entry this year. All local Atheists and Atheist organizations are encouraged to come out and celebrate Atheist Pride in this very public and very civic event. Let's show up in force and make a strong community statement on Saturday, July 4, 2009!

Please [let us know](#) if you want to march in the parade. It starts at Noon, so you'll need to be there before that. We're also looking for a convertible to lead the group. We have reserved Baldwin Park in Concord – we can have 120 people! The parade and park are within 1 mile of the Concord BART station. The parade is in Todos Santos Plaza at Noon and we'll have the two bbq's fired up by 1pm. We're providing the grilling and paper products. Please bring your own beverages (alcoholic containers are not permitted), bbq food items and a side dish to share.

Please come out and join us as we celebrate our country and support the separation of church and state!

San Francisco Atheists now on Facebook



If you are one of the 200 million and growing members of social networking website **Facebook**, join our new "Group" on the site. [Click here to see the San Francisco Atheists Facebook group](#) and show your support by joining the group!

[American Atheists also has a Facebook Group page.](#)

Our new site is growing and it's a handy place to join a discussion, post items and comments, see upcoming events, and to network with other Bay Area Atheists.

Facebook is free, but you do need to become a Facebook member before joining a Facebook Group. Signing up is quick and easy.

Call For Volunteers



San Francisco Atheists is managed by a Steering Committee - a handful of unpaid volunteers who run the affairs of the organization. This year, the Steering Committee is looking for a new **webmaster** / **email editor** to take San Francisco Atheists into an exciting new decade.

Interested? This potential new Steering Committee member should have some or all of the following basic qualifications:

- Can meet 4:30-6:00 pm, before the monthly program meetings
- Take turns hosting the program meetings
- Participate regularly in the Steering Committee email list
- Ideas and follow-through with action
- Experience with creating and maintaining websites and email list management, or the willingness and ability to expand existing skills to working with the website and email list.

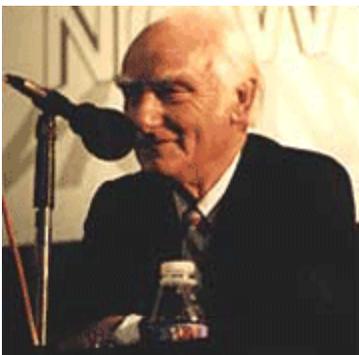
Training and support can be provided.

Can you do the job? Will you do the job? Questions? Please [reply](#) and let us know! We'd like to invite candidates to sit in on a few Steering Committee meetings to get the feel of how this task is run, and to get your input. Help us keep the momentum growing!

Joke Of The Month



Quote Of The Month



"I realized early on that it is detailed scientific knowledge which makes certain religious beliefs untenable. A knowledge of the true age of the earth and of the fossil record makes it impossible for any balanced intellect to believe in the literal truth of every

part of the Bible in the way that fundamentalists do. And if some of the Bible is manifestly wrong, why should any of the rest of it be accepted automatically? . . . What could be more foolish than to base one's entire view of life on ideas that, however plausible at the time, now appear to be quite erroneous? And what would be more important than to find our true place in the universe by removing one by one these unfortunate vestiges of earlier beliefs?"

-- **Francis Crick**, *What Mad Pursuit: A Personal View of Scientific Discovery*, 1988

San Francisco Atheists | 900 Bush Street #210 | San Francisco, CA 94109 | www.sfatheists.com

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